

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER
APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM
FISCAL YEAR 2011

Instructions

1. Please complete the entire form. **All fields are required.**
2. Please do not **bold**, underline, or *italicize* responses.
3. Request forms must be submitted as a Word document.
4. All completed request forms and any supplemental materials must be submitted via email to:
Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov
5. Please do not send more than one request per email.
6. All completed request forms must be submitted no later than **Friday, February 26, 2010.**
7. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your request within 48 hours of submission, please contact Stephanie Cappa in Congressman Blumenauer's Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-4811.

PLEASE NOTE: All appropriations requests submitted to Congressman Blumenauer's office will be made public on his website, as required by the House Committee on Appropriations.

Project Details

1. Project title:

Hells Canyon National Recreation Area

2. Organization name and address (the recipient of the funds):

Recipient of Funds:
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C., 20250-0003

Requester:
The Nature Conservancy
821 SE 14th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214-2537

3. Contact information

- a. **Project's primary contact:** Michael Dennis, The Nature Conservancy
- b. **Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number:** 503-802-8100
- c. **Email Address:** michael_dennis@tnc.org
- d. **Project location** (if different than organization's address):
Project location is within Hells Canyon National Recreation Area in Northeast Oregon.

4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.

The Nature Conservancy is a private, international, non-profit organization that preserves plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. To date the Conservancy has been responsible for the protection of more than 12 million acres in the United States and has helped preserve more than 80 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. In Oregon, the Conservancy owns or manages 46 nature preserves and has helped protect over 500,000 acres of important habitats, with support from about 23,000 household members.

5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?

Private non-profit 501(c)3 organization

6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?

U.S. Forest Service (funded via the Interior appropriations bill)
Land and Water Conservation Fund

7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (no more than 500 words).

This is a unique opportunity for the U.S. Forest Service to acquire approximately 4,175 acres of inholdings within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. The purchase will ensure these lands are never developed, thus preserving public access for hunting and fishing - which is critical to the community - and protecting important habitat.

These acquisitions are the highest priority for the Forest Service in the Northwest because of their ecological significance and identification as some of the last inholdings in the area. When these inholdings were put up for sale, The Nature Conservancy purchased them on an emergency basis at the recommendation of the Forest Service and local community. The entire acquisition will protect about 12 miles of river and stream that support steelhead, bull trout, and Chinook salmon. Hells Canyon contains over 1,000 native plant species and approximately 380 wildlife species.

The Hells Canyon National Recreation Area represents one of the most intensive areas for conservation collaboration in the Northwest. Across Hells Canyon, extensive federal, tribal, state, and non-profit activities have included habitat restoration and management, invasive species removal, acquisition, planning, and monitoring.

8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

These lands are the highest priority for acquisition by the U.S. Forest Service in the Northwest.

This project ensures public access for hunting and fishing. Furthermore preventing development of these inholdings protects the Forest Service and County from spending future taxpayer dollars on protecting new private homes from wildfire.

While the acquisition itself will contribute to job creation in a minor way (appraisals, title search, etc.), once the property is acquired the community should expect jobs associated with forest and habitat restoration and other conservation work.

9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?

Yes

9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.

\$1.5M of Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) was received by the U.S. Forest Service for this project in FY10.

Funding Details

10. Amount requested for this project:

\$4.215M

11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

All funds are for U.S. Forest Service land acquisition.

12. What is the total cost of the project?

\$5.715M for lands within the National Recreation Area

13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011?)?

Yes

14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)

The Nature Conservancy will be contributing around \$1.3 – 1.8 million in holding and acquisition costs.

The Nature Conservancy's Oregon and Idaho chapters have partnered with regional Cooperative Weed Management Areas to locate, contain, and eradicate invasive noxious weeds within priority areas of Hells Canyon for years. To date, over \$1 million has been spent managing invasive plant species.

Bonneville Power Administration has invested at least \$2.5 million in several partners for acquisition, restoration, and monitoring of fish habitats in the area since 1997.

The U.S. Forest Service has spent approximately \$160,000 in listed plant monitoring, weed control, and peregrine falcon monitoring within Hells Canyon NRA since FY04.

The Army Corps of Engineers will start construction this year on a \$1.7 million Section 206 Continuing Authority Program to restore the headwaters of Camp Creek, an important tributary to the Imnaha River.

15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.

- Wallowa County Board of Commissioners
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Wallowa Resources
- Hells Canyon Preservation Council
- Tony White, member, Oregon Hunters Assn.
- Wallowa Land Trust
- Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- NOAA Fisheries
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Roberts Land and Cattle
- Jean Pekarek, Wallowa County resident

Please return this form no later than Friday, February 26, 2010 via email to:

Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov

Washington, D.C. Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Stephanie Cappa, 202-225-4811, Stephanie.Cappa@mail.house.gov

Oregon Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, 503-231-2300, Sarah.Masterson@mail.house.gov